

S E C R E T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE

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SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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[REDACTED]

Khmer Communist forces in the southwest are keeping pressure on remaining government positions along a stretch of Route 4 northeast of the seaport at Kompong Som. One of the positions contains two 105-mm. howitzers and an effort is to be made today to move them by helicopter to a new location farther north along the highway. Since the fighting in this area started last week, the Communists have captured four other howitzers. At present the insurgents are not within howitzer range of the government air base at Ream--which is being reinforced by troops from Kampot City.

The government apparently does not intend to try to

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retake the outposts it has lost along Route 4 but will try to strengthen other positions farther up the road from Kompong Som. Thus far, there are no signs that the Communists plan to attack the port city.

North of Phnom Penh, the Communists are still carrying out sporadic shellings against the government base at Lovek. Insurgent ground action has slackened somewhat in the past few days, however, enabling Lovek's defenders to try to push out their defensive perimeters. Fighting remains light on other fronts in the capital region. More Communist shellings against Prey Veng City east of Phnom Penh have been reported but casualties have been low. Elsewhere, Cambodian Army reinforcements are being sent to Kompong Thom--75 miles north of Phnom Penh--to help defend against anticipated attacks against that isolated city.